



Architect: Musick, G. Meredith
Birth/Death Dates: 1892-1977
Practice Dates: 1923-1957
Firms: G. Meredith Musick Architect
Musick and Musick

Biographical Information

G. Meredith “Mark” Musick’s work illustrates the great revolution in early twentieth century American architecture away from historical revival styles and toward Modernism. Unusual among Denver architects, he designed buildings in the three most dominant twentieth century Modernist styles—Art Deco, Art Moderne and the International Style.

Born in Hot Springs, Arkansas, on January 5, 1892, George Meredith Musick, Sr., received his education in St. Louis, Denver and Boulder. A charter member and architecture student of the Denver Atelier, he began his career as a draftsman with Denver architect Henry H. Hewitt. Subsequently, he worked in the offices of Frank Edbrooke, Jacques Benedict, Harry J. Manning and Eugene Groves in Denver, and Smith, Hinchman and Gryllis in Detroit before opening his own firm in Denver in 1923. While Mark Musick actively pursued clients, his younger brother, architect James Roger Musick, did much of the firm’s design work.

Musick capitalized on his friendships with Denver mayors Ben Stapleton and Quigg Newton. He handled numerous projects for the city, including the boiler room (1939) and Nicholson Building (1940) at Denver General Hospital, and the 1946 passenger terminal for Stapleton Airport. Musick and Burnham Hoyt designed the now-demolished Las Casitas housing project (1941) for the Denver Housing Authority. Musick and Frederick E. Mountjoy planned the Denver Municipal Auditorium Arena expansion (1941). Musick served the city as a member of the Denver Building Code Authority, the Board of Examiners and Appeals, and the Denver Art Commission.

Musick designed a wide variety of commercial and institutional buildings in Denver. He is best known for his Colonial Revival style First Baptist Church (1938) at East 14th and Grant, his now-demolished Neo-Gothic nine-story Republic Building (1927) at 16th and Tremont Place, and his Southwestern-Indian inspired Art Deco Bryant-Webster Elementary School (1930) at 3635 Quivas. Musick successfully built in a variety of architectural styles, ranging from the Tudor style Wellshire Country Club (c. 1925) to two of the best International Style buildings in Denver. With Dudley Smith, Casper Hegner and Thomas Moore he worked on the University of Denver classroom building at 1445 Cleveland Place. With C. Francis Pillsbury and Earl Chester Morris, Musick designed the Police Building (now offices for the Denver Center for the Performing Arts) at 1245 Champa.



Bryant-Webster School
Source: Colorado Historical Society



Though not a supporter of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his New Deal administration, Musick designed several projects under federal programs during the Great Depression and World War II. Musick presided over the board of architects for the State Capitol Annex (1939), a Public Works Administration-funded project, at East 14th and Sherman. With Temple Buell, he planned the 1935 expansion of the U. S. Custom House in Denver. During World War II, Musick designed the Alliance Air Field and the Scottsbluff Bomber Base, both in Nebraska, as well as many buildings for Lowry Army Air Force Base in Denver and Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Aurora.

On witnessing the demolition of his Shirley-Savoy Hotel Annex (1936) at East 17th and Lincoln, he commented that Americans should be more like Europeans who "re-store and maintain historic structures through the centuries.... The havoc wrought in downtown Denver during the past ten years or so makes of me a stranger on my native heath."

Active in the Colorado Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Musick served as secretary (1925-28) and president (1929-30). He was an active Episcopalian, Mason, Republican, and director of the Mile High Chapter of the Isaac Walton League. His sons George Meredith, Jr., and Clayton became architects and worked for a while with their father. The elder Musick retired in 1957 and died in Denver on March 20, 1977.

Credited Buildings (partial list)

Building Name	Location	Site No.	Date*	Status
Wellshire County Club	E. Hampden and S. University Blvd., Denver		Ca. 1925	Public facility
Republic Building	16 th and Tremont Denver	5DV.506	1927	Demolished
Beach Court Elementary	W. 46 th Ave. and Beach Court Denver	5DV.2079	1929	School
Bryant-Webster Elementary School (with J. Roger Musick)	3635 Quivas St. Denver	5DV.378	1930	National Register
US Custom House expansion (with Temple Buell)	721 19 th St. Denver	5DV.153	1935	National Register
Union Printers Home Hospital	Colorado Springs		Ca. 1935	
Gymnasium, Lookout Mountain School for Boys	Golden		1936	Gymnasium
Shirley-Savoy Hotel Annex	E. 17 th Ave. and Lincoln St., Denver		1936	Demolished
Denver Motor Hotel	14 th and Stout Denver	5DV.1786	1936	Demolished in 2007



First Baptist Church	14 th and Grant Denver	5DV.803	1938	National Register
Colorado State Capitol Annex**	1341 Sherman St. Denver	5DV.3844	1939	National Register
Police Administration Building (with C. Francis Pillsbury and Earl Chester Morris)	1245 Champa St. Denver	5DV.1767	1940	Office building
Nicholson Building, Denver General Hospital			1940	
Lowry Army Air Force Base**	Denver/ Aurora		Ca. 1940	
Fitzsimons Army Hospital**	Aurora		Ca. 1940	
Las Casitas Housing Project (with Burnham Hoyt)	Denver		1941	Demolished
Denver Municipal Auditorium Annex (with F.E. Mountjoy)	13 th and Champa Denver		1941	Converted to Buell Theater
Alliance Airfield	Alliance, NE		Ca. 1942	
Scottsbluff Bomber Base	Scottsbluff, NE		Ca. 1942	
Beach Court Elementary addition	W. 46 th Ave. and Beach Court Denver	5DV.2079	1950	School
Stedman Elementary School addition	2940 Dexter St. Denver	5DV.9036	1950	School
University of Denver Classroom Building (now part of Webb Building) (with Smith, Hegner and Moore)	1445 Cleveland St. Denver	5DV.1855	1949	National Register
May Bonfils Stanton Center for the Performing Arts, Loretto Heights College	3001 S. Federal Blvd., Denver		1963	Performing arts center
Stedman Elementary School second addition (Musick and Musick)	2940 Dexter St. Denver	5DV.9036	1966	School
Stapleton Airport passenger terminal	Quebec St. Denver			Demolished
Climax Molybdenum structures	Lake County			
Smith Elementary School	3590 Jasmine St. Denver			School

*Completion date is stated if known. Plan, building permit, or assessor date is shown if completion date is unknown.

**Designed with other architects.



Information Sources

Noel, Thomas J. *Buildings of Colorado*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Noel, Thomas J. and Barbara S. Norgren. *Denver: the City Beautiful and its Architects, 1893-1941*. Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1987.

Palmer, Joan and Ilene Bergsman, "Architects of Colorado: Database of State Business Directory Listings, 1875-1950." Denver: Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, 2006.

Simmons, R. Laurie and Thomas H. Simmons. "Historical and Architectural Survey of Selected Denver Public Schools, 2003." August 2003.

Site Files Database, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver.

Wheaton, Rod, Michael Paglia and Diane Wray, "Colorado State Capitol Annex Building and Boiler Plant," National Register of Historic Places registration form, February 14, 1991.

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